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[Home](#) > [Science and Innovation](#) > [International Scientific Cooperation](#)

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Table of Contents

In this Issue:

- Report on the 2nd Canada-Brazil Consultative Committee meeting in Ottawa
- A Seminar on Agricultural Science and Innovation at the BC-Canada Pavilion in Beijing
- A Corn breeder network set up during the AAFC-China Workshop on Corn Breeding in Shenyang City in the Liaoning Province
- Invitation to join the Canada-China-Israel Agricultural Technology Partnering Mission to China (Nov. 5-9, 2008)
- Biotech - Call for Reviewers for integrated project grants (Mercosur-Biotech-EU)
- OECD Research Sponsorship Programme
- The Newton International Fellowship
- Seminar on Hygiene and Food Safety in Katanga
- United Kingdom Company Interested in Canadian Technologies (continued...)

For more information please visit: [International Scientific Cooperation](#)



Report on the 2nd Canada-Brazil Consultative Committee meeting in Ottawa

June 17-18 in Ottawa, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) hosted the 2nd Canada-Brazil Consultative Committee Meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil. All aspects of agriculture were discussed from science to policy, regulations and trade. The Brazil delegation was obviously looking to Canada as a partner of choice in agriculture.

In regards to science, research priorities identified were: access to genetic resources, material sharing and conservation; agricultural practices that improve environmental performance with focus on climate change and water issues; development of energy-efficient, sustainable cereal culture, including both genetic and crop management aspects; dynamics of soil micro-organisms and rhizobia; environment and sustainability impact and assessment (e.g.: agri-environmental indicators); postharvest handling of fruit and vegetables; sustainable livestock production; technologies and processes for food safety and food quality; and traceability research. Discussions will continue on the preparation of a MOU with EMBRABA and on the opportunities of internship at AAFC for young Brazilian scientists and graduate students.

Photo: Participants to the 2nd Canada-Brazil Consultative Committee Meeting in Ottawa

Contact: Johanne Boisvert





A Seminar on Agricultural Science and Innovation at the BC-Canada Pavilion in Beijing

AAFC, the BC Government and the Canadian Embassy co-hosted an agriculture and agri-food week in the BC-Canada Pavilion in Beijing from June 11-13, 2008, to promote Canadian agri-food sciences and products to the Chinese market as well as to develop bilateral relations. A number of seminars and promotional events were held, including a seminar on Agricultural Science and Innovation that showcased bilateral S&T cooperation and innovation between the two countries. The seminar was well received by 50 Canadian and Chinese participants from the scientific, university and industry sectors. At the seminar, Dr. Peter Chen from the Canadian Embassy in Beijing gave the opening remarks. Dr. Joe Zhou, Chief Officer, Canada-China Science Cooperation, AAFC, made a presentation on major bilateral S&T cooperation projects. Dr. Verns Burrows, eminent oat breeder, highlighted Canada-China cooperation on oat breeding. Dr. Xiong from China's Desertification Control Foundation reported on the joint AAFC-China achievement in controlling and reducing deserts in China. Dr. Hu of the Chinese Academy of Agriculture Science discussed commercialization opportunities in the S&T sector. The seminar was a success as it raised the profile of Canada's agriculture S&T projects in China.

On June 14, Dr. Burrows was invited by the Jilin Provincial Government to receive an honour as one major founder of the Canada-China cooperation for the development of oats. Drs. Chen and Zhou accompanied Dr. Burrows and witnessed the award ceremony in Jilin.



Photo: Dr. Burrows receiving an honour from the Jilin Provincial Vice Governor, Mr. Liu (center)

Contact: Joe Zhou



A Corn breeder network set up during the AAFC-China Workshop on Corn Breeding in Shenyang City in the Liaoning Province

Corn is one of the most important crops for both China and Canada. The cooperation on corn material and breeding can only benefit both sides. As part of the MOU between AAFC and Shenyang, an AAFC-China corn breeding workshop was hosted in Shenyang City, Liaoning Province, China, on June 20-21, 2008. The Vice Mayor of Shenyang, Dr. Zou Dating, welcomed the participants to the event. Dr. Yvon Martel, Chief Scientist, AAFC, sent a warm greeting letter for a successful workshop, while Dr. Zhou, Chief Officer, Canada-China Science Cooperation, AAFC, introduced AAFC international cooperative projects with China. AAFC corn breeding scientists, Drs. Lana Reid and Xiaoyang Zhu, reported on Canada's advancements in corn breeding, and Chinese scientists presented their results in corn breeding and cultivation. The workshop also provided an opportunity to discuss material exchange and quarantine examination.

More than 80 representatives from universities, academic researchers and corn seed producers attended the event. A China-Canada network for corn breeders was set up to promote bilateral cooperation, and a coordination office was opened in Shenyang.



Photo: The opening ceremony at the AAFC-China workshop on corn breeding, Shenyang, Liaoning, PRC, June 11-13, 2008

Contact: Joe Zhou



Invitation to join the Canada-China-Israel Agricultural Technology Partnering Mission to China (Nov. 5-9, 2008)

The 15th China Yangling Agricultural Hi-Tech Fair (CAF 2008), Yangling, Shaanxi Province, China

International Science and Technology Partnerships Canada (ISTPCanada), Canada Israel Industrial Research & Development Foundation (CIIRDF) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) are pleased to invite Canadian companies and researchers to participate in a technology and business partnering mission to the most comprehensive annual agricultural high-tech fair in China.

The focus of the international component of CAF 2008. The 15th China Yangling Agricultural Hi-Tech Fair is the China-Israel Week on Agriculture Cooperation with Canada invited as one of the main countries. The mission is of value for Canadian organizations seeking opportunities, partners and technological cooperation in agricultural technology in China and/or Israel.

The mission offers the following support to participants:

- Promotion of the research and technology profiles of, and presentations by, the participants;
- Evaluation of and connection with potential partners;
- Financial assistance available for participation (Information: ISTPCanada)
- Opportunity to exhibit in the Canada Pavilion and to participate at Science and Innovation seminars.

ISTPCanada and CIIRDF manage a competitive process for joint R&D projects with Chinese or Israeli companies respectively.

Contacts: Agri-Food Trade Service



Biotech - Call for Reviewers for integrated project grants (Mercosur-Biotech-EU)

The Ministry of Science and Technology (MINCYT) of Argentina under the Biotech "*Programa de apoyo al desarrollo de las biotecnologías en el Mercosur*" is seeking for international reviewers. The call to participate as a reviewer of the Integrated Projects Grants will be open from June 9th to August 14th 2008.

Subjects of the Integrated Projects are:

- Bovine Meat Production Chain: Sanitary and Safety;
- Poultry Meat Production Chain: Sanitary and Safety;
- Forestry Production Chain: Bioprocesses and Bioprospection;
- Oil Seed Production Chain: Bioprospection and functional Characterization of genes.

The Integrated projects grants are awarded in biotech areas deemed to be priorities, facilitating the mobilization and association of research teams and entrepreneurs in the region in order to consolidate a regional platform denominated BIOTECSUR.

The Integrated Projects will be instrumented through grant contracts awarded to consortia integrated by research institutes, private companies, universities and organizations involved with technology transfer.

To apply as a reviewer please contact Carole Morneau, the EU Canadian Point of Contact to obtain

the application form. The interested candidates can send their application or make additional enquiries by e-mail.

Call for External Reviewers of Integrated Projects - Contact in Argentina:

Mr. Eduardo Trigo
Unidad de gestion - Mincy
Biotech - Programa de apoyo al desarrollo de las
Biotecnologicas en el Mercosur
Av Córdoba 934 Piso 1ro.
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Contact: Carole Morneau

OECD Research Sponsorship Programme

This year again, OECD has a Co-operative Research Programme (CRP) entitled Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems.

Under its 2005-2009 funding program, OECD endeavours to strengthen co-operative research by granting research fellowships. The CRP promotes two types of activities open to scientists who are citizens or residents of OECD countries: fellowships to conduct research projects from two to twenty-six weeks in a foreign country, as well as programme funding for sponsorship of workshops.

The Governing Body is composed of a representative from each participating country and it defines the general orientation of the programme. To be accepted, applicants must submit a research project that falls under one of the following three categories chosen by the Governing Body: the natural resources challenge, sustainability in practice and the food chain.

Those who are interested in applying this year must submit their application by **September 15, 2008**. Details and application forms may be obtained on the Research Programme on Biological Resources in Agriculture website or by contacting the OECD Secretariat.

Contact: Marc-André Rizk

The Newton International Fellowship

The Newton International Fellowship scheme, run by The British Academy, The Royal Academy of Engineering and The Royal Society, aims to attract the world's best postdoctoral researchers to the UK. Applicants should have completed a PhD and have up to six years' postdoctoral experience, or equivalent experience at a comparable level. The two-year Fellowships, which must start before March 31, 2009, cover the broad range of the natural and social sciences, engineering and the humanities. The Fellowships include £24,000 per annum to cover subsistence and £8,000 to cover research expenses, plus a one-off relocation allowance of £2,000. Funding, worth £6,000 per year for ten years after the Fellowship ends, will support follow-on activities to enable Newton Fellows to build long-term links with the UK. In addition, Newton Fellows will also become members of the international alumni scheme run by Research Councils UK. The deadline for applications is Monday 4 August 2008. More details from the Newton International Fellowships website.

Contact:

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 6-9 Carlton House Terrace
 London SW1Y 5AG
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Seminar on Hygiene and Food Safety in Katanga

On April 29 and 30, 2008, Dr. Maf Akier Assanta, researcher at the FRDC (AAFC), was invited by the faculty of veterinary medicine of the University of Lubumbashi, in the Katanga province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), to chair a seminar on hygiene and food safety. Some 100 participants from a wide range of fields took part in this event, which highlighted the concerns of populations living in mining areas regarding food and water safety. At a meeting in Kinshasa, the Canadian Embassy in the Democratic Republic of Congo expressed its awareness of the issue and proposed to explore the possibility of finding sources of funding to carry out a collaboration project with the University of Lubumbashi's faculty of veterinary medicine with a view to consolidating the university's analysis and control infrastructures.



Photo: Participants at the seminar on food sanitation and safety in Lubumbashi, DRC

Contact: Maf Akier Assanta



United Kingdom Company Interested in Canadian Technologies (continued...)

In May, Vitality Food, a company from the United Kingdom, and Caldwell Biofermentation Canada Inc. (CBFC) met in an effort to translate their shared passion for producing fermented vegetables into a business opportunity. Since their meeting on May 22nd, a third party has joined the discussions, in the hope of seeing a collaborative project materialize. This third party is the Latvian company Stranda Baltic. It produces 1000 tons of carrots every year, but presently loses more than half of its crops. The fermentation process developed by CBFC and AAFC would allow Stranda

Baltic to create value out of their losses by means of a new product line.

In the potential partnership, CBFC which holds a commercialization licence for AAFC's technology, would do business with Stranda Baltic through Vitality Food whose role would be to act as CBFC's administrative interface in Europe. No legal documents have yet been signed, but discussions continue between the parties and negotiations are going so well that a confidentiality agreement and a commercialization licence for a part of the European market should be signed within a few weeks.

Gary Caldwell, president of CBFC will be in London in mid-August to finalize the discussions. Dr. Tony Savard, an AAFC researcher and an expert in the area of food fermentation, along with his industrial partner CBFC, will fly to Latvia early September to evaluate the installations and to eventually carry out the technology transfer.

Contact:

- Tony Savard
- Clelia Martrès

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